

broke, and no effort to rally them could avail; a few platoons only advanced to the edge of the ditch, to meet a more certain destruction.

9. An unavailing attempt was made to bring them up a third time by their officers, whose gallantry, on this occasion, deserved a better fate in a better cause. Generals Gibbs and Kean were carried away severely wounded, the former mortally. The plain between the front of the British and the American lines was strewn with dead; so dreadful a carnage, considering the length of time and the numbers engaged, was perhaps never witnessed. Two thousand, at the lowest estimate, pressed the earth, besides a number of the wounded who were not able to escape. The loss of the Americans did not exceed seven killed and seven wounded. General Lambert was the only general officer left upon the field; being unable to check the flight of the British columns, he retired to his encampment.

10. In the mean time, the detachment under Colonel Thornton succeeded in landing on the right bank, and immediately attacked the intrenchments of General Morgan. The American right, believing itself outflanked, abandoned its position, while the left maintained its ground for a while; but finding itself deserted by those on the right, and being outnumbered by the enemy, they spiked their guns, and retired. Colonel Thornton was severely wounded, and the command devolved on Colonel Gobbins, who, seeing the fate of the assault on the left bank, and receiving orders from General Lambert, recrossed the river.

11. On the return of General Lambert to his camp, it was resolved, in consultation with Admiral Cochrane, to retire to their shipping. This was effected with great secrecy; and during the night of the 18th their camp was entirely evacuated. From the nature of the country it was found impossible to pursue them. They left eight of their wounded and fourteen pieces of artillery. Their loss in this fatal expedition was immense; besides their generals, and a number